Land for Regional Passport Office

1799. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had gifted land measuring more than three acres in Bangalore in 1994 for the construction of the Regional Passport Office which was kept vacant and idle for almost ten years;

(b) whether the RPO has been functioning on rented accommodation all these years entailing recurring expenditure on rent; and

(c) whether Government would draw a time frame for the development/completion of the project and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, the land was allocated in 1994.

(b) The RPO has so far been functioning in rented accommodation.

(c) The construction of office-cum-residential complex for RPO, Bangalore is now in full swing on the above mentioned land and is scheduled to be completed by August, 2006.

District Passport Cells in Karnataka

1800. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore Passport Office has taken steps for reactivating district passport cells in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) District Passport Cells (DPCs) are already functioning in the following districts in Karnataka.

S.No.	District	Date of opening of DPC
1.	Belgaum	16/02/2004
2.	Bellary	02/11/2003
3.	Bidar	17/08/2004
4.	Bijapur	01/01/2004